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APPLICATION

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FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

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SPECIFICATION

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TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT WE, ANDREA L. PETTINGILL AND
25 BLAINE C. PETTINGILL citizens of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
have invented a new and useful WHEEL LOCK DEVICE of which the
following is a specification:

WHEEL LOCK DEVICE

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to security and wheel locking devices and more particularly pertains to a new security and wheel locking device for preventing the proper rotation of a wheel.

15 **Description of the Prior Art**

The use of security and wheel locking devices is known in the prior art. While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a device that includes a device which is 20 easily couplable to a wheel rim for preventing the theft of a vehicle or trailer to which the rim is attached.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention meets the needs presented above by generally including an elongated member having a first end and a second end. The elongated member has a first side and a second side positioned opposite of each other. A first arm is attached to the first side and extends away therefrom. The first arm is orientated generally perpendicular to the 30 elongated member. The first arm is positioned adjacent to the first end. A foot is attached to a free end of the first arm. The foot extends in a same direction as the first end. A sleeve is positioned on the elongated member

and is selectively movable between the first end and the second end. The sleeve has an upper wall, a bottom wall, an inner wall and an outer wall. The inner wall is positioned adjacent to the first side. An urging member is mounted in the outer wall for selectively biasing the outer wall away
5 from the elongated member. A second arm is attached to an outer surface of the inner wall and extends in a same direction as the first arm. A foot is attached to a free end of the second arm. The foot extends in a same direction as second end. The first and second legs may be selectively extended into openings in a wheel rim and the second leg moved away
10 from the first leg such that the first and second legs engage the rim.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present
15 contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

The objects of the invention, along with the various features of
20 novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25 The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

30 Figure 1 is a schematic perspective in-use view of a wheel lock device according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a schematic perspective view of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along line 3-3 of Figure 2 of the present invention.

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Figure 4a is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along line 4-4 of Figure 3 of the present invention showing the device in the unlocked position.

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Figure 4b is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along line 4-4 of Figure 3 of the present invention showing the device in locked position.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

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With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 4 thereof, a new security and wheel locking device embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

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As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 4, the wheel lock device 10 generally comprises an elongated member 12 having a first end 14 and a second end 16. The elongated member 12 has a first side 18 and a second side 20 positioned opposite of each other. The first side 18 has a plurality of teeth 22 positioned thereon. The teeth 22 are orientated perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the elongated member 12. The second side 20 has an elongated slot 24 therein extending between the first 14 and second 16 ends.

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A first arm 26 is attached to the first side 18 and extends away therefrom. The first arm 26 is orientated generally perpendicular to the elongated member 12. The first arm 26 is positioned adjacent to the first

end 14. A foot 28 is attached to a free end of the first arm 26. The foot 28 extends in a same direction as the first end 14.

A sleeve 30 is positioned on the elongated member 12 and is
5 selectively movable between the first end 14 and the second end 16. The sleeve 30 has an upper wall 32, a bottom wall 34, an inner wall 36 and an outer wall 38. The inner wall 36 is positioned adjacent to the first side 18. The inner wall 36 has an inner surface that has a plurality of teeth 40 thereon.

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An urging member 42 is mounted in the outer wall 38 for selectively biasing the outer wall 38 away from the elongated member 12. The urging member 42 is positionable in an extended position (Figure 4b) or a retracted position (Figure 4a). A lock 44 is mechanically coupled to the
15 urging member 42 for selectively locking the urging member 42 in the extended position. A guide 46 is attached to the outer wall 38. The guide 46 extends into the slot 24. The teeth 22 on the first side 18 engage the teeth 40 on the inner surface of the inner wall 36 when the urging member 42 is in the extended position.

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A second arm 48 is attached to an outer surface of the inner wall 36 and extends in a same direction as the first arm 26. A foot 50 is attached to a free end of the second arm 48. The foot 50 extends in a same direction as second end 16 such that the two feet 28, 50 extend in opposite
25 directions with respect to each other.

A weight 52 is attached to the second end 16 of the elongated member 12. The weight 52 is preferably a large mass. The elongated member 12 and the weight 52 are preferably colored a relatively bright
30 color such as yellow.

In use, the first 26 and second 48 legs may be selectively extended into openings 8 in a wheel rim 6 and the second leg 48 moved away from the first leg 26 such that the first 26 and second 48 legs engage the rim 6.

5 The feet 28, 50 hold the elongated member 12 in place. The urging member 42 is extended so that the teeth 40 on the sleeve 30 engage the teeth 22 on the elongated member 12 so that the sleeve 30 is immovable with respect to the elongated member 12. The lock 44 retains the urging member 42 in the extended position. Preferably, the urging member 42 is

10 moved into the extended position as the lock 44 is rotated. Once in place, the device 10 prevents the proper rotation of the rim 6. The weight 52 further displaces the proper rotational abilities of the rim 6 and will strike the ground should the rim 6 be rotated. If the weight 52 is broken off from the elongated member 12, the elongated member 12 will still be attached to

15 the rim 6 and an observer would recognize that the vehicle or trailer on which the rim 6 is positioned is stolen.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to

20 include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

25 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and

30 described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.